

262339

VS 130

NHTSA-03-16128-44

12/15/03

Edwin Price  
130 W. Kent Ave, Apt 18  
Missoula MT 59801

Dr. Jeffrey Runge, Administrator  
National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington DC 20590

Dear Administrator Runge:

When it comes to the family vehicle, all Americans deserve the choice of a cleaner, safer, and more cost effective alternative. But this choice is being denied to us because of government and industry foot-dragging. This has resulted in the waste of millions of barrels of oil are wasted, an increase in foreign energy dependence, worsening of the greenhouse effect, and, most importantly, thousands of people die on the roads every year needlessly.

Recently, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) demonstrated that "off the shelf" technology could vastly improve the safety and efficiency of SUVs. For a minimal cost increase, UCS engineers have designed an SUV with equal size and performance than the Ford Explorer. Yet, this SUV gets 27.8 mpg and could save more than 2,000 lives each year. Over the lifetime of the vehicle, consumers would actually *save* money!

In recent testimony to Congress, you expressed your concern about the disturbing safety data on SUVs. The UCS blueprint shows that this issue and improved fuel economy can, and should, be addressed together. As you consider regulatory action over the coming months, I hope you will use this information, and your authority, to prove that your testimony was more than just rhetoric. I urge you to increase fuel economy standards for SUVs as well as increase safety protections for SUV consumers.

Sincerely,



Edwin Price

12/15/03  
NHTSA-03-16128-44  
12/15/03